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# PelhamNEWS

Published by Osprey Media Publishing Inc. • Issue No. 11 Volume 13

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## INSIDE

### Noise bylaw discussed

A public meeting on a proposed noise control bylaw for Pelham drew about 20 people to talk about loud machines, bad timing and common sense. Town council wanted public input on a draft bylaw presented in February and revised slightly in March. It's a revision of a noise control bylaw the town has had since 1961 and revised in 1993.

See Page 4

## FUNDRAISER: Book on homeless leads to lunch



WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo

Toronto writer Rebecca Upjohn, centre in front row, author of *Lily and the Paper Man*, meets students of Pelham Centre Public School. Her book about a little girl and a homeless man inspired the Pelham students to raise money for the Out of the Cold program in St. Catharines by preparing a fundraising lunch.

## Good deed inspires author's visit to Pelham school

WAYNE CAMPBELL  
PelhamNEWS Staff

When author Rebecca Upjohn heard her book inspired a good

deed, she wanted to meet the children.

The Toronto writer came up with *Lily and the Paper Man* after her son saw a man sleeping in the

street and asked her why, she told Pelham Centre Public School students during a visit last week. Students of Grade 4 teacher Sheryl Bench and Grade 8 teacher

Broke Robinson used the book as part of a reading assignment.

The students suggested doing something for the homeless.

see **AUTHOR** A2

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■ AUTHOR

## Son inspired her story

FROM PAGE A1

It led to the organizing of a fundraising lunch put together by students, staff and parents that raised \$300 for the Out of the Cold food program in St. Catharines. The students learned it would help pay for 100 meals.

Meanwhile, Upjohn heard about a video sent out by the District School Board of Niagara reviewing the project and received an e-mail from the school.

She volunteered to come to talk to the students about her story of a little girl getting to know a homeless man.

"What an incredible thing you did. It gave me a feeling of ultimate validation about the book," Upjohn said.

She was especially proud of what they did with the money because she volunteers for Out of the Cold in Toronto.

The students asked questions that included what inspired her to write the book.

Her son's experience was the inspiration, she said, but it took her more than a year to write the book.

She showed them pages and pages of revisions to *Lily and the Paper Man*.

"Like you, I have to make corrections and changes," she said.

Upjohn explained the long process of finding a publisher, especially one interested in

social issues.

"The publisher told me they wanted to do the book, and then wanted more revisions."

She showed the students some of the original illustrations. They were done after the book was written and by an illustrator working on her own.

Upjohn said she was always a writer. She read the students a story called *Ghost* she wrote in elementary school.

"Obviously I was interested in writing a long time ago," she said.

She has had two other books published. *Patrick's Wish*, about a boy with AIDS, was put together in three weeks to meet a publisher's deadline for a campaign. Her next book, *The Last Lion*, is a "chapter book" of 100 pages about a bird-rescue operation.

Upjohn called fiction writers "liars and thieves" who draw inspiration from every day life.

In her case, it's as a parent. If a writer likes your glasses, she told the students, it may turn up in a book. Observation is part of the process.

"There are three ways to become a better writer: read a lot, write a lot and seek advice from your peers, teachers, editors and other writers."

When asked what she learned from *Lily and the Paper Man*, Upjohn said it was to see homeless people not as scary but as people like the rest of us.

WAYNE CAMPBELL  
PelhamNEWS Staff

■ FISHING: Trout season opens at St. Johns Conservation Area

## A 'reel' sign of spring in region

THOROLD - For about 40 years, scores of experienced and new anglers have fished a pond at St. Johns Conservation Area for the opening of trout season.

"It's a great spot for kids to learn to fish. Most kids in Niagara have caught their first fish at the St. Johns pond," Mary Stack, of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, said.

Despite the warm, sunny day, the turnout for the official noon cast was a little less than expected. But scores of anglers lined the 0.75-hectare man-made pond for the start.

Stack said some people come every year and have their favourite spots. Those ages 18 to 65 required an Ontario fishing licence, while those under 18 and over 65 didn't.

With a daily two-fish limit, young and old quickly reached their target, allowing for a steady turnover during the day.

Peter Cuke of Thornhill brought his two grandchildren Ruby and Tom Jr. Tom said it was his first time at St. Johns and the family's visit gave the children their first taste of fishing at the conservation area. Fonda said she was there before. The family has a boat it takes into Lake Erie and fish in streams around Ridgeway.

Eighty-four-year-old Mickey DiFruscio, a conservation



WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo

At left, Elizabeth and Mickey DiFruscio prepare to make the first cast to open the trout fishing season at the St. John Conservation Area Saturday. DiFruscio, a 20-year board member of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, said the pond provides a wonderful opportunity for families, like the Cukes, right, to fish together. Grandfather Peter Cuke of Thornhill watches his two grandsons Ayden and Ethan of Welland show their first catches, snagged shortly after the noon opening of the trout pond in Thorold.

of Ridgeway brought their two children Ruby and Tom Jr. Tom said it was his first time at St. Johns and the family's visit gave the children their first taste of fishing at the conservation area.

Fonda said she was there before. The family has a boat it takes into Lake Erie and fish in streams around Ridgeway.

Eighty-four-year-old Mickey DiFruscio, a conservation

authority board member from Thorold, cast the first line to start the fishing at noon.

"I've been doing it for a long time," he said.

The 20-year board member said he is pleased with the popularity of the pond at one of the headwaters of Twelve Mile Creek in the St. Johns Valley.

"It's an isolated setting, right in Thorold's backyard"

This year's annual stocking of the pond with 1,000 trout almost didn't happen because of budgeting constraints on the conservation authority.

Land management director Darcy Baker, who sounded the horn to open the season, said the authority had to turn to the Niagara Conservation Authority Foundation for help.

Trout season continues until Thursday, Sept. 30.

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## tempo

■ ENVIRONMENT: Registration lower than expected

# Participation Day encourages Pelham community cleanup

WAYNE CAMPBELL  
Staff Writer

**PELHAM** — On a warm spring Saturday, people across the town cleaned their lawns, their driveways or the roadways in front of their homes.

Unfortunately, for Pelham Communities in Bloom, few officially registered their participation in the committee's spring Participation Day. Officially, only 65 signed up at the registration table in Fenwick's Centennial Park.

Through the day they picked up 130 bags of garbage and recyclables.

Organizer Brenda Neilson said she was surprised considering the good weather.

"But with the expectation of rain on Sunday, they probably stayed home to do their own properties. The way I look at it, we filled 130 bags with stuff that wouldn't have been picked up," she said Sunday.

Neilson suggested with Participation Day following close to Earth Day Thursday, people may have thought they did their bit to help the environment. Organizers sent cleanup crews along roads throughout the town.

Hayley Fikikema, a member of Glynis A. Green School's Green Team, brought her father Mike Fikikema to help. "She said she wanted to come so we came," her father said.

"This was his first time doing Participation Day, and they were given bags and gloves and directed to stretches along Foss and Welland roads."

Kaitlin Labatte of St.



WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo  
Brenda Neilson, co-ordinator of the Pelham Communities in Bloom Participation Day, directs Hayley Fikikema and her father Mike Fikikema to Foss Rd. and Welland Rd., two routes along which they will pickup debris during the Saturday morning event.

Catharines was registering young people participating in the Ontario Youth Volunteer Challenge sponsored by the Ontario government and running to May 8. The challenge encourages young people aged 14 to 18 to volunteer and get the 40 hours of community service they need to graduate high school.

By mid-morning she had 15 registered for Participation day in Fenwick, while 100 young people volunteered across Niagara that morning. More information is available online at the Ministry of Citizenship website.

Adam Fundytus and Alexi Thompson picked up

trash along Hwy. 20 east of Effingham Rd.

The two E.L. Crossley

Secondary School students, who were earning some community volunteer hours, said they found a lot of Tim Hortons cups, cigarette packs, newspapers and even the skeleton of a dead bird.

They said it was their first time working Participation Day as they filled a garbage bag with debris.

Gerry Berkhout and Ryan Huckle got off to a late start Saturday morning as they pulled debris from bushes along Pelham St. in downtown Fonthill.

"We almost filled a bag just from these bushes along Pelham St. in downtown Fonthill."

"We almost filled a bag just from these bushes along Pelham St. in downtown Fonthill."

Huckle on the cleanup. The Crossley student performed volunteer work between performances of Urinetown: The Musical. He was on stage Friday night and was returning to Ridley College for the Saturday show.

This was his first experience with Participation Day and he was doing it as a member of the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council.

Sponsors of the day included Tim Hortons, who offered mugs and T-shirts, Fenwick Lions Club, who supplied a barbecue at the end of the morning, and Shoppers Drug Mart, which provided soft drinks.

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WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo  
E.L. Crossley Secondary School students Adam Fundytus, left, and Alexi Thompson pick up coffee cups, cigarette packs and newspapers among the debris left along Hwy 20. They were doing volunteer work as part of the Pelham Communities in Bloom committee's spring Participation Day.



WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo  
Ryan Huckle, left, and Gerry Berkhout clean up trash along Pelham St. in Fonthill as part of Pelham Communities in Bloom's Participation Day Saturday.

# comment

Published by PelhamNEWS  
Cosrey Media Publishing Inc.  
228 East Main St., Welland, ON L0R 1D0  
Tel: 905-732-2454 ext.246 Fax: 905-732-3660  
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PELHAM'S GENERAL MANAGER  
Wayne Campbell, editor

## perspective



Wayne Campbell  
EDITOR

## Busy day in town square

**P**ull out your cloth shopping bag, lace up your sneakers and enjoy your cycling muscles.

On Thursday, May 6, Pelham residents will step into spring with the opening of the Pelham Farmers' Market, the annual Mayor's Walk and the arrival of Heart and Stroke Foundations Big Bikes. They all take place in Fonthill's Pelham Town Square.

The market, with about 20 local area and food vendors, opens at 8:30 a.m. and continues until dusk. It will fill the municipal parking lot each Thursday evening until Oct. 28. Over the past seven years, the market has turned into a meeting place for residents and an attraction for shoppers from Welland, St. Catharines, Thorold and western Niagara. It has led an explosion in the number of farmers' markets across Niagara as food shoppers take a growing interest in buying locally produced fruit, vegetables and consumer products.

The sixth annual Mayor's Walk steps off at 6 p.m. from the Farmer's Market. It's intended to draw attention to the town's extensive walking trails. This year, at 8:30 a.m., it will feature a demonstration of urban polling. The walking exercise uses poles similar to cross-country ski poles to increase fat burn and stir up the cardiovascular workout. Walkers can choose from two routes — 7.5 km or 2.9 km along the Steve Bauer trails.

The third event starts at My Place Bar and Grill in the Fonthill Shopping Centre before the opening of the market and it extends for three hours. Teams from Lookout Ridge Retirement Community, Town of Pelham, Fonthill Post Office, Sobeyes, Fenwick Lions and Lionsess, Fonthill Herbal Magic, Fonthill Lions and Curves will ride the 30-seat bicycle to raise money for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Last year Pelham's big bike rides raised \$14,132. Since 2001, Pelham has contributed \$65,819.

Now, let's hope the sun shines next Thursday.



Supplied Photos  
St. Ann Grade 1/2 class of teacher Angela Ciupak adopted 70 larvae on March 24 from Boreal Laboratories, along with a "Butterfly Kit" including a terrarium, caterpillar and small containers. The larvae grew individually in small containers, into large caterpillars and attached themselves to the lids of the small containers to form chrysalids. The students transferred the lids to the terrarium where they hung for 7-10 days before butterflies emerged. After a day or two, they let them fly away in schoolyard. Students held out dandelions to entice the butterflies and to enjoy a butterfly up close. Painted Lady Butterflies live about three weeks.



WAYNE CAMPBELL  
PelhamNEWS Staff

## Bylaw draws more comment than noise itself

PELHAM — A public meeting on a proposed noise control bylaw drew about 20 people to talk about loud machines, bad timing and common sense.

Town council wanted public input on a draft bylaw presented in February and revised slightly in March. It's a revision of a noise control bylaw the town has had since 1981 and revised in 1983.

Bylaw enforcement manager Keegan Gennings outlined changes already made. They included taking out a clause about unreasonable disturbance and fixing a mistake that set a noise deadline time for "yelling, shouting, shouting, whistling and singing" at 9 p.m. instead of 11 p.m.

Ward 2 Coun. Dave Emmens, who chaired the meeting, said council and staff will take the suggestions into consideration when they put together the final version. Town staff had already received 52 written comments and summarized them in a report.

"The people aren't too happy," said Wayne Patterson as he handed the council a 16-page petition signed at the Target store just down the road from the Fonthill fire hall where the meeting was held.

Where are you going to do next? Outlaw tractors on farms?" he said.

Gennings said farm operations are exempt from the bylaw.

Staff member Greg Schrier questioned a provision to restrict operation of snow removal equipment to after 7 p.m.

Gail said her husband had to clear their driveway before then so he couldn't get to work in the early morning and she could get to her job by 7:30 a.m. and 8 a.m.

Frank said he often cleared his Fellingbrook neighbours' driveways once he had his snowblower going. They said 6 a.m. was a more reasonable time.

Marg Hinton asked if there was any way to limit yard care companies to certain days.

"Everyone in our neighbourhood has different companies coming at different times of the week with their lawn mowers and blowers," she said. "Couldn't we have peace and quiet just one day?"

Chuck Jansen said people need to get to know their neighbours and work things out. "It's crazy to rely on a bylaw."

Everyone in our neighbourhood has different companies coming at different times of the week with their lawn mowers and blowers," she said. "Couldn't we have peace and quiet just one day?"

Chuck Jansen said people need to get to know their neighbours and work things out. "It's crazy to rely on a bylaw."

## Benjamin Moore

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■ NIAGARA REGION: Bag limit to be imposed by next March

## Weekly garbage pickup remains

ALLAN BENNER  
PELHAMNEWS Staff

**THOROLD** — A tin can, empty milk carton and several other items littered the desk of Pelham Mayor David Augustyn.

He brought the bits of trash with him to illustrate the points he was arguing inside regional council chambers Thursday; and they remained pinned on his desk as councillors debated significant changes to garbage collection until well after 1 a.m.

But Augustyn's arguments weren't enough to sway the opinions of the majority of regional councillors who sided with the numerous residents who packed council chambers to listen to the debate.

Councillors voted in favour of continuing with weekly garbage collection — but now with a single garbage bag or can instead of two.

Gone are alternating weeks for blue and grey bin pickups. Blue and grey bin recyclables

and green bin organic waste — the stuff that puts the stink in your garbage — will be picked up every week.

Councillors also banned the collection of grass clippings and other items littered the desk of Pelham Mayor David Augustyn. And they approved a seven-year contract with Enterra Environmental for the curbside collection of household waste — a move that saw 80 Modern Landfill workers and their family members leave regional headquarters unhappy.

All changes go into effect in March.

Augustyn wanted a three-bag limit collected every other week. He said most people support the Region's goal of diverting 65% of trash from landfills.

"This is the way we need to move forward. This is the way we need to be environmentally friendly."

To reach that goal, he said the Region needs to make recycling and using green bins more convenient than putting out a bag of trash. Holding

some of the recyclable items on his desk, Augustyn said it seems a lot more convenient for people to simply pitch it in the garbage — that's why less frequent garbage collection and weekly recyclable collection would "make it less convenient to landfill."

Welland Mayor Damian Gough, chair of the Region's waste management planning steering committee, said Niagara has not managed to move beyond about a 42% diversion rate in the past seven years.

If the region wants to divert 65% of its trash away from landfill sites, biweekly garbage pickup is the way to go about doing it.

He's received seven e-mails and several calls from people concerned about the Region's recommendations for biweekly garbage collection. But after he explained the issues to those people, "they changed their minds."

see **GARBAGE** / A5

## ■ NOISE

## FROM PAGE A4

They disturb her high-strung horses for hours at a time napping up and down the property line.

"Farmers have to abide by restrictions and regulations," she said, pointing of setback rules. "Why aren't there any for residential neighbours of farms?"

Hank Bauer asked whether there were any provincial legal restrictions on ATVs.

Gennings said only if they are on a road.

Ward 2 Coun. Sharon Cook said noise can be a judgmental thing and there may be some benefit to a 9 p.m. limit to

noise times.

Mayor Dave Augustyn said persistent noise may be a key factor in determining an offence.

Ward 3 Coun. John Durley suggested looking at government health and safety guidelines and see if they may provide help.

Ward 3 Coun. Peter Papp said it's a complex issue that requires a practical approach.

"A bylaw has to be enforceable and it can't be unreasonable," he said.

Gennings said after the meeting he is not sure when he would bring in a final draft of the bylaw.

In enforcing a noise control bylaw, the town would only

act on complaints. Under the current bylaw, there have only been 17 noise complaints in the past year.

"Most of those had to do with barking dogs," he said.

There have been more comments over the proposed noise control bylaw than about noise itself, he said.

welland@tribune.ca

## ■ GARBAGE

## Service isn't being reduced, says Welland mayor

## FROM PAGE A4

He said many people perceived it as a reduction in service, "and it isn't."

Instead, he called it an

increase in service for blue and grey box recycling.

Still, it's something residents will have to get used to.

"It's going to be an

inconvenience for a little while, but it will work," Goulbourne said.

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Adding a multivitamin to your daily regimen is a good first step towards maintaining lifelong vitality. To improve the odds still further, many health care providers advocate taking "super nutrients" on top of a daily multivitamin. Super nutrients are compounds found in fish oil and a wide variety of plants that are high in antioxidants and have proven to be valuable in combating cell degeneration. "Supplementing your supplement" in this way can be an effective strategy to give your system that extra boost, but it can also be time consuming and confusing. How do you sift through the mind-boggling overabundance of the product information available to determine what to take, how different substances will interact, and how much of each tolerance is required?

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## ■ ART: Volunteers cheered

## Arts festival gives back

KAESHA FORAND  
PelhamNews Staff

PELHAM — Without volunteers contributing countless hours, the Pelham Art Festival wouldn't be as successful as it is.

Dozens of volunteers help with preparations, ticket sales, set up booths and hold a number of important responsibilities before, during and after the popular festival.

Those important volunteers

were honored on last week at the Pelham Library with a reception.

In its 24th year, the festival has helped raise \$200,000 for the Pelham Public Library and Wednesday night the library was presented with another \$10,000 to be used for its summer children's theatre program and went into a fund for the construction of the new Maple Acres branch in Fenwick.

Library director Stephanie



KAESHA FORAND Staff Photo  
Library board chair Bob Winter and library director Stephanie Stowe accept a \$10,000 cheque from Pelham Art Festival chair Heidi TeBrake last Wednesday night during a volunteer appreciation evening. The funds are raised through the annual art sale and will be used for its summer children's theatre program and went into a fund for the construction of the new Maple Acres branch in Fenwick.

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How to resist infection? Keep your mouth tissues in top condition. Remove your dentures more often, especially at night. Let's try to determine what elements of your diet might contribute to fungus growth. Best of all, have us evaluate your denture fit. In severe or chronic cases you may need to see your doctor.

Of course, life with a denture can be full and vigorous. But remember, your oral health will always need attention, denture or no denture.

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Stowe praised volunteers and the tremendous help their fundraiser has provided to the library.

"Over the past eight years that I've been here, their donation have made it possible to improve both libraries and services from children to seniors."

Without the funds, Stowe said they would be "substantially behind other libraries."

Pelham Art Festival chair Heidi TeBrake said volunteers are essential to the event and thanked them for all their hard work.

Her thanks were echoed by Mayor Dave Augustyn and library board chair Bob Winter.

Augustyn said a community with arts and culture have soul and "it's because of you the community has soul."

"You have that vision of how important art is in a community and culture in a community."

The Pelham Art Festival will be held May 7, 8 and 9 at the arena on Hais St. It typically draws between 1,500 and 2,000 visitors with 65 to 70 juried artists featuring acrylic, oil, water colour, soap painting, glass work, pen and ink, pencil, pastel, jewelry, photography and pottery.

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■ ART: Pelham festival features paintings, sculptures, pottery, stained glass

# Making Mother's Day colourful for 24 years

KATIE DANIEL  
For PelhamNews

PELHAM — Artists from across Niagara will showcase their hard work on Mother's Day weekend.

There will be a wide range of art this year, says advertising co-ordinator Patricia Hafner. "There is glass work, pottery, acrylics, oils, pen and ink, wood burning, pastels, almost everything."

Last week a few of the artists participating in the show came out to Pelham library's Fonthill branch for the festival's media day.

Among the artists are festival regulars, including Beverly Sneed, who has been attending since the first show 24 years

ago. Martha Southwell, a local in 20 years ago but also does sketching. Her oil painting subjects include people, pets and vintage automobiles.

"Oil painting is a fairly long process," says Southwell. "There are many layers of paint, which shows the depth of the painting."

Southwell is a member of the Portrait Society of Canada. In 2008 one of her paintings was a finalist in the International Art Festival in Toronto. Last year the same painting won the award of excellence at the Pelham festival.

Selling art is quite new to some of the artists. Jean Parent has only been on the artist circuit

for three years.

"I didn't know I had it in me," says Parent. "It's a new career for me."

Parent started painting 13 years ago after retiring from a career in education. In March 2006 she was diagnosed with cancer and considers painting a part of her healing process.

"It's exciting to start a painting and choose the colours. It's a real process taking time to layer and make revisions though," says Parent, who paints mostly abstracts with acrylics on either paper or canvas with bright, vibrant colours.

The Pelham Art Festival will be held at the Pelham Arena May 7 to 9.

A daily pass costs \$4 and the

weekend pass is \$8. The festival will include live music and a raffle for a painting by featured Niagara Falls artist James Kerr. Proceeds from the raffle benefit arts in the community and Pelham Public Library.



JOSH GRANT-YOUNG  
Staff Photo

Jean Parent of Thorold holds her artistic creation called Enigma. Parent recovered from cancer in 2006 and through art therapy classes found a passion to paint and a 'wonderful creative spirit.' She'll be featured at this year's Pelham Art Festival.

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About 10 years ago Mel, noticed he was getting tired. Simple tasks like walking the dog became difficult because of fatigue and a painful burning sensation in his throat. He couldn't walk very far without resting. At night, his feet were always, always cold. As time passed, the symptoms worsened. With growing fear and anxiety, he went to a cardiologist who confirmed that he was suffering from heart disease and angina.

Angina is your body's way of telling you that your heart is not receiving adequate amounts of blood or oxygen. In Mel's case, there was a build-up of plaque in the arteries around his heart, blocking blood flow. A common ailment called hardening-of-the-arteries, these blockages were cutting off the blood supply causing his heart to work much harder. The

dizziness, fatigue and numbness in his legs was an indication he was suffering from poor circulation.

Mel knew a number of friends, neighbours and family members who suffered from heart disease. Many ended up with heart bypass surgery and life-long drug therapies.

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## ■ SAFETY: Pedestrians control signal

# New traffic lights at school

**WAYNE CAMPBELL**  
 PelhamNEWS Staff

A driver on Pelham St. pulled up to a new traffic signal at Port Robinson Rd., lowered her window and called to town politicians gathered for a photo opportunity.

"Thank you for the new light," she called out. "I've been waiting for 10 years".

Then as the light turned green, she drove north through the intersection.

She was one of three drivers to shout out a greeting while the group gathered at 8:30 a.m. last week.

The lights, which have been hanging for a few weeks awaiting parts, finally went on. Last Wednesday was the first full day of operation of the pedestrian

guided lights at Glyn A. Green Public School.

However, as the driver pointed out, a campaign to get them has stretched over years. It involved lobbying by the school, parents, children, pedestrians and drivers for not only the signal lights but also sidewalks to the school and other safety measures.

Mayor Dave Augustyn called it "the first step to ensuring the students of Glyn A. Green are safe every day".

The next steps include installation of sidewalks along the west side of Pelham St. between Brock St. and Elizabeth Dr. over the next couple of months. It will fill a gap in the sidewalk pattern along the street.

see **TRAFFIC LIGHT** | A9

## Mothers Eat Free



# Mother's Day Brunch

**SUNDAY MAY 9<sup>TH</sup>**

**Featuring:** Cinnamon French Toast, Country Sausage, Bacon, Belgian Waffles, Crepes, Breakfast Home Fries, Omelet Station.

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## ■ TRAFFIC LIGHT

## FROM PAGE A8

Later this year, the mayor said the town will start to reconstruct Pelham St. south of College.

Future steps include design studies of Pelham St. from Port Robinson to Quaker Rd. and Port Robinson from Pelham St. to Station St.

They will lead to reconstruction work in 2012, which will include sidewalks and a new road, he said.

Glynn A. Green principal Sandy Giancarlo said he's delighted to see the light go into operation.

"There has been a lot of discussion over the years for safer crosswalks, lights and sidewalks," he said. "Some of the issues date back to when we had Fonthill Public School." It was closed and torn down a few years ago.

Giancarlo said drivers of cars and buses coming off the steep grade of Port Robinson Rd. will appreciate the traffic lights, especially in the winter.

Sheridan Houghton with her daughter Kira Tarasuk and Emma Caldwell representing her mother Joanne Caldwell were at the short ceremony.

Houghton and Caldwell as members of the School Advisory Council gathered a petition and made a pitch to town council last fall to put in the lights and extend sidewalks around the school.

Houghton said she was pleased to see the lights finally in place. It provides more protection for students like her daughter who have to cross Pelham St. to the school.

Now she hopes the town moves ahead with sidewalks to the south and she will be watching for progress, she said.

Bob Fish, a member of the town's active transportation committee, said the signals and improvements in sidewalks will help to make the town more walkable.

School crossing guards Connie Peart and Diane Vachell are relieved to have the lights to backup their work helping students and adults across Pelham and Port Robinson.



WAYNE CAMPBELL, Staff Photo  
Gathering for the official dedication of a new traffic light at Pelham St. and Port Robinson Rd. are, from left, Ward 2 Counc. Peter Papp, Ward 3 Counc. John Durley, Bob Fish of the Pelham Active Transportation Committee, Glynn A. Green School parent Sheridan Houghton with daughter Kira Tarasuk, front, student Emma Caldwell, Mayor Dave Augustyn and principal Sandy Giancarlo.

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WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo  
St. Ann Catholic School students turned recyclable materials into art in a project involving most of the school. With samples of the work are from left Kate Kraflic with a robot, Noah Paul with USS Enterprise from Star Trek, Liliana McIntosh with a bag made from juice boxes, and Adrian Papez, who made a pretend bomb from paper roll cores.



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WAYNE CAMPBELL  
Staff Photo

For three years, Shortfalls Tree Service has donated and planted three red maple trees in a park beside the Pelham Arena. Assisting in the planting are from left Brad Smith, assistant manager of parks and cemeteries for the Town of Pelham, Mayor Dave Augustyn, and Brian Alkemade, owner of Shortfalls Tree Service. Alkemade said the trees come from Willowbrook Nurseries and are a native species. He began the project to thank the town and residents. He trims and removes trees for a living and wanted to put some back.

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■ EARTH DAY: NPCA shows its stuff

# Importance of wetlands taught at E.C. Brown

WAYNE CAMPBELL  
PelhamNEWS Staff

PELHAM — Checking the birds and insects and frogs and snakes will reveal the health of an ecosystem.

Kelly Jamieson, a restoration project lead with Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, told a Grade 7 class from Quaker Road Public School in Welland the number of frogs, turtles, salamanders and insects will tell water, soil and air are good or bad.

She spoke during Earth Day interpretation tours at the Welland River's E.C. Brown Conservation Area during an Earth Day event Thursday. It drew students from Quaker Road, Fitch Street and Alexander Kuska schools in Welland and St. Ann in Fenwick along with a community living group from St. Catharines.

The day included tree and

shrub planting, monitoring demonstrations of birds, amphibians and insects and explanations of the native plants found throughout the wetland restoration area. Over the past few years, the NPCA has restored the once oft-flooded cornfield to its original wetland condition. Native plants create a living interpretative area with trails, explanation signs and monitoring stations.

Restoration project lead Allison Graszat said Thursday's goal was to instill in students the importance of wetlands and their importance to the future of the ecosystem.

The students helped NPCA staff plant more than 1,000 trees and shrubs.

Graszat said the conservation area changes throughout the year.

For example, it prairie grass meadowland blooms with colour in early July.



"The other day we found a mallard with a nest of eggs," she said. "With recent flooding the vernal pool in the centre now has fish in it." NPCA chair Doug Ransom said the authority was pleased with the turnout for this Earth Day event.

"It gives us a chance to show our stuff and to partner with other groups," said

as the schools, community living and the Environment Ministry, which was holding a team-building exercise on the grounds.

E.C. Brown has worked out well as a demonstration area because it easily accessible and centrally located for the 500,000 or so people within the conservation authority's region, Ransom said.



WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority held its second annual Earth Day event at the E.C. Brown Conservation Area on April 22. At left, Quaker Road Public School Grade 7 students Josh Wood, left, Ethan Milne and Cameron Borisenko look for frogs. Above, Megan Benson, left, and Nicole Power, Grade 8 students from St. Ann Catholic School plant trees. Below, NPCA restoration project lead Steve Gillis shows Jacob Campbell of St. Ann Catholic School in Fenwick the fine points of tree planting.



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